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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/657,216	09/07/2000	Jean-Paul Chollon	END9-2000-0105US1	1339

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

O CONNOR, GERALD J

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/657,216 Examiner O'Connor	Applicant(s) Chollon et al. Art Unit 3627	
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on March 5, 2003 (Election and Amendment "A").
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
- Disposition of Claims
- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 14-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 14-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on June 25, 2002 is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Remarks

1. This Office action has been prepared in response to the election/amendment filed by applicant on March 5, 2003 (Paper N^o 7).
2. Applicant's revisions to the specification, as well as the cancellation by applicant of non-elected claims 4-13, are both hereby acknowledged.

Election/Restriction

3. Applicant's election with traverse of Invention I (Claims 1-3 and 14-15) in Paper N^o 7 is hereby acknowledged. The traversal, notwithstanding the cancellation by applicant of all non-elected claims, is on the ground(s) that "each of the independent claims presently pending in the application may be examined without creating a serious burden on the examiner."
4. Applicant's argument has been fully considered but is not found persuasive.
5. Regarding "serious burden" MPEP § 803 states, in part, under "Guidelines":
A serious burden on the examiner may be prima facie shown if the examiner shows by appropriate explanation either separate classification, separate status in the art, or a different field of search as defined in MPEP § 808.02. That prima facie showing may be rebutted by appropriate showings or evidence by the applicant.

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6. As the examiner has indeed made such a *prima facie* showing of serious burden, based upon separate classification, as set forth in the Requirement for Restriction (Paper N° 7), and as applicant has offered no showing or evidence in rebuttal to that conclusion, simply an opinion stating a contrary position, applicant's arguments have been dismissed as merely spurious, amounting to simply a general allegation that a serious burden would not be imposed, without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims fails to comport with the explanation of separate classification provided by the examiner.

7. The restriction requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Specification

8. The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code (page 20, line 21). Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

9. Applicant's very lengthy specification has not been checked to the full extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1-3 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gardner et al. (US 5,758,327).

Gardner et al. disclose a method for creating a valid chart of accounts from which an administrator can facilitate and enable a requisitioner to select a valid account, comprising the steps of pushing 36 from an enterprise system 12 a chart of accounts to a requisition catalog system database 10, selecting from the requisition catalog system database 10 valid accounts with descriptions for a given commodity (see, in particular, column 5, line 57, to column 6, line 13), and then pushing 50 a selected account/description tuple to company 12 commodity groups for use in a requisition creation process (see, in particular, column 6, lines 64-67), but Gardner et al. do not specifically disclose that the chart of accounts includes descriptions, nor that the valid accounts have a limited purchase period.

However, descriptions and valid periods (such as a name of the account and a particular valid fiscal year) for accounts are well known, hence obvious, elements to include in any system of requisitioning accounting.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the method of Gardner et al., so as to include account descriptions and periods, as is well known to do, in order to facilitate selection of the proper account to which to charge a particular requisition, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding claim 2, the method of Gardner et al. includes the requisitioner 18 searching 40 against commodities and catalogs 24, 26, 28 in commodity description documents and, responsive thereto, creating one or more line items (see, in particular, column 5, line 61, to column 6, line 13).

Regarding claim 3, the method of Gardner et al. includes the requisitioner initiating a proceed to accounting process which displays lines item(s) selected by the requisitioner and an agent created financial worksheet (see, in particular, column 6, line 27, to column 9, line 56). Gardner et al. also disclose the use of commodity codes (see, in particular, column 5, lines 57-61), but do not specifically disclose the recited details of the descriptions of each commodity code. However, the recited elements of the commodity code descriptions are all well known, hence obvious, elements to use in any commodity code descriptions. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have further modified the method of Gardner et al., if required, so as to include the particular non-functional descriptive material recited by the claim, in order to describe each particular commodity code in detail so as to facilitate selection of the proper commodity code, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

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Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the disclosure.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication, or earlier communications, should be directed to the examiner, Jerry O'Connor, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1525, and whose facsimile number is (703) 746-3976.

GJOC



3/29/03
Kenneth R. Rice
Primary Examiner

March 20, 2003